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# Message Text

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40
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 ( ADP ) W
---------- 039660
R 241520 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4199
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2619

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IR, SA
SUBJECT: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER' S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: A. STATE 115268: B. TEHRAN 4400

1. KHALATBARI VISIT COMES AT PROPITIOUS MOMENT AND WE THINK HE MAY BE ABLE PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN INSPIRING NEW AND CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF IMPORTANT MUTUAL INTERESTS EXISTING BETWEEN GOI AND SAG. IT MIGHT BE MENTIONED TO KHALATBARI THAT I WILL ENDEAVOR HAVE FEW WORDS WITH SAQQAF SOMETIME THIS WEEK AND TO EXPRESS US CORDIAL BELIEF THAT KHALATBARI VISIT, LIKE SAQQAF' S OWN TRIP TO TEHRAN, REPRESENTS ANOTHER FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR STRENGTHENING SAUDI- IRANIAN TIES AND UNDERSTANDING, AND THAT I BELIEVE THIS IS VERY MUCH GOI PURPOSE.

I MIGHT ALSO SUGGEST SAUDIS CONSIDER EXPLORING FURTHER WITH IRANIANS POSSIBILITIES FOR GOI- SAG COLLABORATION TO ASSIST OMAN AND YAR ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY. MY POSSIBLE COLLOQUY WITH SAQQAF WILL IN ANY CASE BE BRIEF BECAUSE OF CONFERENCE THIS WEEK IN JIDDA OF SAUDI AMBASSADORS AND OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSIONS FROM ALL OVER
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THE WORLD, LEAVING SAQQAF LITTLE TIME FOR REGULAR BUSINESS. ( I MAY HAVE MOMENT SPEAK WITH HIM AT RECEPTION EVENING JUNE 26.)

2. SINCE KHALATBARI HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO SHOW SOME INTEREST IN MY VIEWS, FOLLOWING PURELY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT MIGHT IF AMB HELMS BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, BE CONVEYED TO KHALATBARI BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE:

A. USG UNDERSTANDS EXIGENCIES OF IRANIAN SITUATION WHICH REQUIRE STEADY GOI ARMS BUILDUP. SAUDIS, HOWEVER, ARE MUCH LESS CERTAIN AS TO IRANIAN OBJECTIVES AND KHALATBARI MIGHT WISH ESSAY CAREFUL REASONED EXPLANATION OF IRANIAN PURPOSES TO NEUTRALIZE SAUDI MISGIVINGS. TO EXTENT HE WILL HAVE CONVINCED SAUDIS THAT IRAN HAS NO INTENTION USE ITS ARMS DOMINATE ARABA SIDE OF GULF HE WILL HAVE ACHIEVED IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING SAUDI- IRANIAN UNDERSTANDING. SAUDIS WILL BE INTERESTED IN IRANIAN ESTIMATE OF SITUATION IN IRAQ ( THOUGH I HOPE KHALATBARI WILL NOT BE TOO OMINOUS IN DESCRIBING SOVIET OGRE) AND RECEPTIVE TO EXPLANATIONS OF GOI CONCERNS FOR PAKISTAN, COUNTRY WHICH ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE SAUDI AFFECTION AND RESPECT.

B. ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SAUDI OUTLOOK IS INTENSE SENSITIVITY REGARDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ARABS, WHICH WE HAVE RARELY SEEN GREATER THAN AT PRESENT. I DO NOT THINK SAUDIS WILL BE TOTALLY UNRECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF SOME KIND OF MULTILATERAL, BILATERAL PUBLIC OR SECRET AGREEMENT REGARDING GULF SECURITY, BUT THEY WILL BE EXTREMELY CAUTIONS AND IRAN MAY HAVE TO BE VERY PATIENT BEFORE SAUDI RESPONSE IS RECEIVED.

C. I AM GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY NUMBER OF POSITIVE DE-VELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY AND HAVE MUCH RESPECT FOR THE MEASURES KING FAISAL AND HIS GOVT ARE UNDERTAKING. YET IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRY TO ASSESS THINGS HERE WITH BOTH FRIENDLY AND OBJECTIVE EYE. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS POSSIBLE OBSERVE THAT IN MANY RESPECTS SAUDIS LACK CONFIDENCE. THEY ARE PUZZLED AND ARE EXPERIENCING CONSIDERABLE TENSION REGARDING DIFFICULT AND MOMENTOUS DECISIONS THEY ARE NOW FACING AS TO USE OF THEIR NEW WEALTH, THEIR POSITION ON

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ARAB- ISRAEL PROBLEM, AUGMENTING THEIR DEFENSE AND THEY ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARABS REGARDING THEIR OIL POLICY. THUS, THEY MAY OCCASIONALLY HARBOR APPARENTLY PUZZLING MISGIVINGS AND CONCERNS REGARDING SOME OF THEIR PROBLEMS AND EVEN SOME OF THEIR NEIGHBORS.

D. WHILE WE KNOW IRANIANS HAVE TRIED TO BUILD MORE

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SATISFACTORY WORKING RELATIONS WITH SAG, I HOPE THEY
WILL KEEP TRYING. DEVELOPMENT OF SERIES OF QUIET,
SUCCESSFUL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS IN SPHERES OF IMPORTANCE
TO BOTH ( INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE, POLLUTION OF GULF, ETC.)
ARE BEST BASES ON WHICH FURTHER SAG- GOI UNDERSTANDING AND
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE CAN BE BUILT. WE COUNT AS PARTICULARLY
HOPEFUL SPHERE IN THIS REGARD EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE GOI- SAG
COLLABORATION TO ASSIST YAR AND OMAN.
THACHER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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**To:** NEA
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